



# Usborne Phonics Readers Toad makes a road



Usborne Phonics Readers have been created in consultation with a language expert, taking into account the latest research on the most effective ways of teaching reading. Children who have just learned to read can enjoy the lively stories with very little guidance from an adult, gaining the experience and enthusiasm they need to become fully confident readers.

Stephen Cartwright's delightful illustrations complement the text and are designed to stimulate further interest. Fold-out pages add to the enjoyment.

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Supports  
synthetic  
phonics  
learning

Phil Roxbee Cox & Stephen Cartwright

## What is synthetic phonics?

Phonics-based reading involves learning to recognize the distinct sounds, or phonemes, that go together to make up words. There are just over 40 phonemes in the English language. Some phonemes correspond to a single letter, like the h-o-p sounds in the word "hop", and others to combinations of letters, such as the sh-ee-p sounds in the word "sheep".

Synthetic phonics is the process of reading by *sounding* the individual phonemes in a word, and then synthesizing – running them together – or *blending* them to read the whole word. Children who learn to read using synthetic phonics start by learning the individual phonemes, then soon learn to sound and blend in order to read whole words. This gives them the confidence to read unfamiliar words and tackle new texts, an important step towards independent reading.

Words can be divided into two basic groups: regular phonic words, such as "sheep", which can be read by sounding and blending, and words which are wholly or partly irregular. Most words in English are regular, but some very common words, such as "the" and "was", are irregular and have to be learned. When your child meets an unfamiliar word, encourage him or her to read it regularly; children may recognize the irregularity and correct themselves, or you can guide them if necessary.

Read this story with your child, encouraging him or her to sound out the words as you go. Soon, most children will start to sound out the words for themselves. This is an excellent way of helping to develop a fundamental reading skill.

Dr. Marlynne Grant

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Phil Roxbee Cox

Illustrated by Stephen Cartwright

Edited by Jenny Tyler



Language consultant: Marlynne Grant

BSc, CertEd, MEdPsych, PhD, AFBPs, CPsychol



There is a little yellow duck to find on every page.

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Toad hops happily.  
She has a new house on the hill.



"My new house is best," she boasts.

Toad waits and waits for the truck to  
bring her things.



Time ticks on...





Time ticks on...

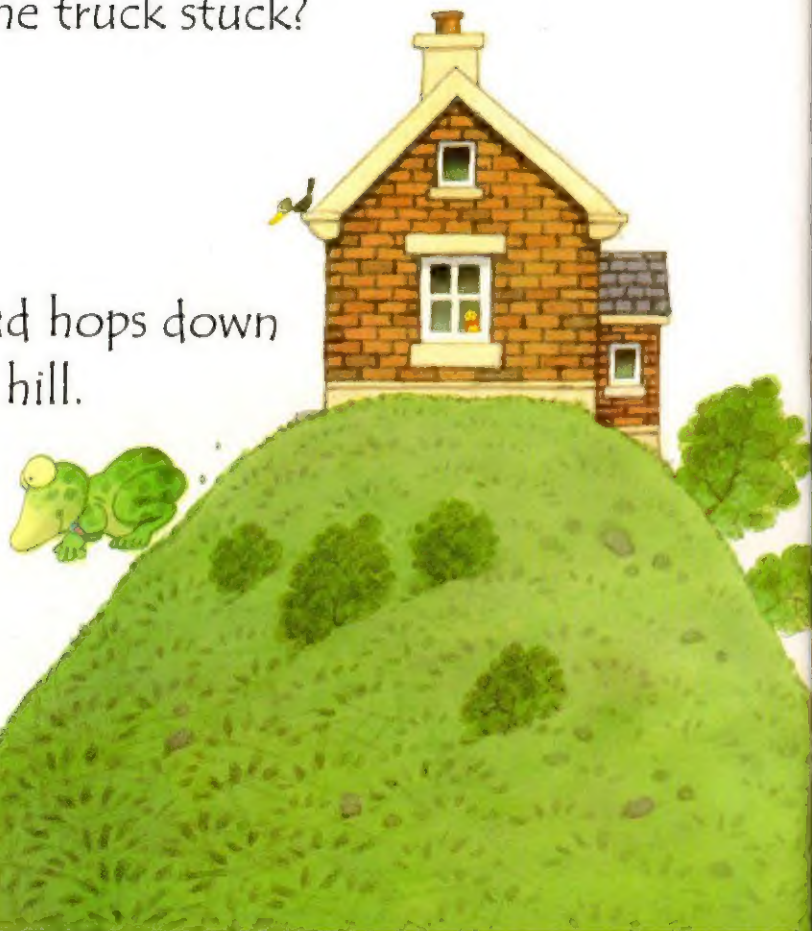


She's out of luck.  
Where is that truck?



Is the truck stuck?

Toad hops down  
the hill.



She's in luck.  
There's the truck.



"I can't get up the hill. The load will spill."

There's no track for the truck.



So, Toad brings her things up the hill.

Toad is tired.  
With one last hop  
she flops into bed...



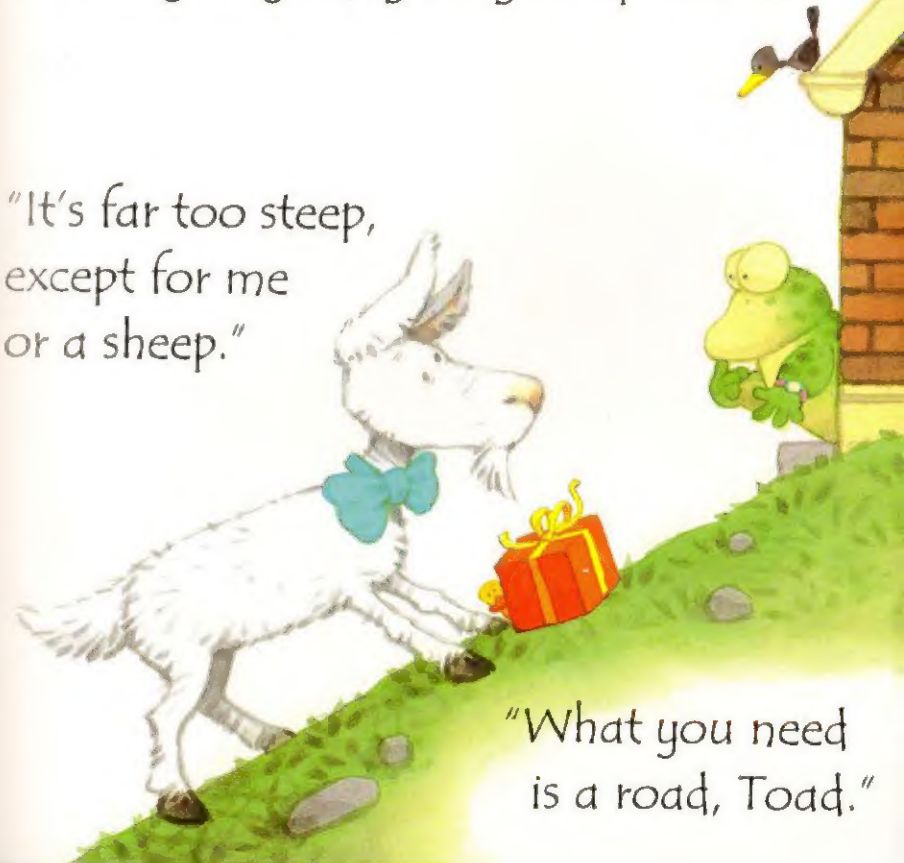


Next day, Toad eats toast.  
"Today is my party!"



But only Billy the goat gets up the hill.

"It's far too steep,  
except for me  
or a sheep."



"What you need  
is a road, Toad."



"If I need a road, then I'll make a road!"  
says Toad.



"But toads can't make roads,"  
says Billy. "That's silly."

"Wait and see!"  
says Toad.



Toad clears a track.



She lays black,  
sticky tar.

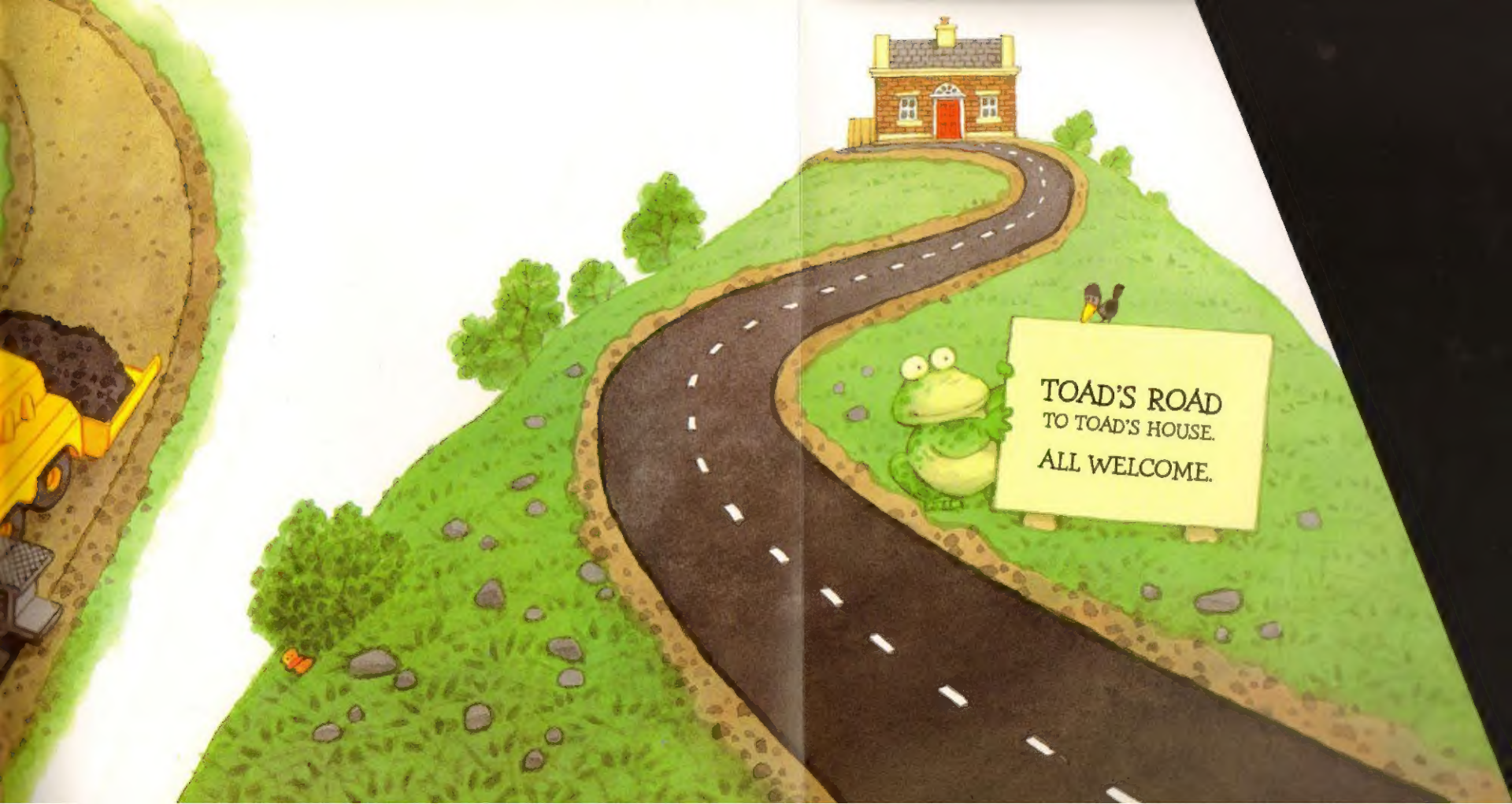


Then she rolls it flat.



Toad's road is ready.





TOAD'S ROAD  
TO TOAD'S HOUSE.  
ALL WELCOME.

Now Toad's in luck.  
Here comes the truck!

